

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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R 112058Z MAR 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1904

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, EC, PE

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON RAFAEL GARCIA VELASCO, NEW MEMBER OF ANDEAN
PACT COMMISSION

REF: QUITO 1238 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GARCIA VELASCO WAS ELECTED
MARCH 3 AS ONE OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE ANDEAN PACT COMMISSION.
HIS NOMINATION TO THAT POSITION BY THE GOE SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE
THE GOE ATTACHES TO THE PACT AND ITS DESIRE TO HAVE A TOP
NEGOTIATOR IN THE COMMISSION TO PROTECT ECUADOREAN INTERESTS.
BIO INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN REFTEL AND BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR RAFAEL GARCIA VELASCO, CURRENTLY MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN RELATION'S LEGAL ADVISER, WAS ELECTED ON MARCH 3 AS
ONE OF THREE NEW MEMBERS OF THE ANDEAN PACT COMMISSION.
AMBASSADOR GARCIA HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN NAMED IN EARLY FEBRUARY
TO SERVE AS THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR TO BOLIVIA. BASIC
BIO INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON HIM IN REFTEL AND IS BEING
REPEATED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE IT.

3. THE CHANGE IN GARCIA VELASCO'S ASSIGNMENT WAS MADE IN
CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA AND OTHER ANDEAN
PACT COUNTRIES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF
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THE MINISTRY HAVE TOLD US THAT THE DECISION TO NOMINATE

GARCIA FOR THE ANDEAN PACT POSITION WAS BASED ON THE IMPORTANCE THE GOE ATTACHES TO THE ANDEAN PACT AND THE DESIRE TO HAVE AN EXPERT NEGOTIATOR IN THE JUNTA TO PROTECT ECUADOR'S INTERESTS WITHIN THE PACT. GARCIA HIMSELF HAS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS, BUT BELIEVES HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE ECUADOREAN OFFICE OF PLANNING WILL STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD.

4. GARCIA WAS QUOTED IN EL COMERCIO (QUITO'S LEADING DAILY) ON MARCH 8 AS SAYING HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WILL BE TO MAKE EFFECTIVE THOSE MECHANISMS OF THE PACT THAT GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO ECUADOR AND BOLIVIA AS LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITHIN THE SUB-REGION, BUT THAT AS AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICIAL HE WILL STRIVE TO SERVE EQUALLY THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE PACT IN ORDER THAT THE RIGHTS OF ALL SIX COUNTRIES WILL BE ENSURED.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISTRUST OF PERU BY MANY ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS, GARCIA HAS EXPRESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO EMBASSY OFFICERS HIS BELIEF THAT ECUADOR HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH PERU AND BOLIVIA THAN WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND SHOULD SEEK GREATER COOPERATION WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES. THIS IS PROBABLY BASED IN PART ON HIS SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR TO PERU IN 1972.

6. GARCIA IS A HARD WORKING, WELL ORGANIZED AND HIGHLY INTELLIGENT PERSON. HE IS EXTREMELY WELL CONNECTED AND RESPECTED WITHIN ECUADOREAN SOCIETY. GARCIA HAS BEEN A CLOSE CONTACT AND FRIEND OF THE AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR MISSION OFFICERS, AND HAS BEEN OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO THIS MISSION ON SEVERAL MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE. THOUGH A STRONG DEFENDER OF ECUADOREAN INTERESTS, HE HAS STATED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HIS BELIEF THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED STATES MUST COOPERATE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD. WE THINK THE EMBASSY IN LIMA WILL FIND GARCIA WORTH CULTIVATING.
BREWSTER

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